



Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1943

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough of Wisbech.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of submitting to you my report on the general health of the Borough for the past year, ending the 31st December, 1943.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area, 4,666 Acres.

Estimated resident population, mid-1943, 15070.

Rateable value £80428 : 0 : 0.

Sum realised by a penny rate £315 : 0 : 0.

Number of inhabited houses about 4,610.

		Total	M.	F.	
Live Births	Legitimate	202	113	89	} Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population mid-1943, 14·2.
	Illegitimate	22	9	13	
Stillbirths	Legitimate	7	3	4	} Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 34·4.
	Illegitimate	1	0	1	
Deaths		201	108	93	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated average population 13·3.

Deaths from puerperal causes—

Puerperal sepsis	...	...	0	...	0
Other puerperal causes	...	...	1	...	4·3

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	...	62·5
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	64·3
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	45·45
Deaths from cancers (all ages)	...	...	...	26
Deaths from measles (all ages)	...	...	...	1
Deaths from whooping cough (all ages)	...	...	...	0
Deaths from diarrhoea (under two years of age)	...	...	...	5

In the Borough there is one School Clinic, a Tubercular Clinic, a General Hospital, an Infectious Diseases Hospital and an Orthopædic Clinic held bi-monthly at the North Cambridgeshire Hospital.

Excellent Motor Ambulance facilities are provided free of cost, whilst in needy cases, Diphtheria Antitoxin and Pathological and Bacteriological examinations are provided when necessary.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

The duties connected with this are carried out by the M.O.H. who is a part time Officer, the Borough Surveyor, the Borough Senior and Additional Sanitary Inspectors, all full time officers, together with those of the Council's employees who are specially needed for sanitary work.

INFANT AND CHILD WELFARE.

The Infant and Child Welfare Clinic is held weekly at the North Cambridgeshire Hospital, and is still well attended.

Attendances.

First Attendances of Infants under 1 year of age	...	...	108
" " " Children between 1-5 years	...	...	147
Total Attendances of Infants under 1 year of age	...	..	1539
" " " Children between 1-5 years	...	...	629
" " " Mothers	...	...	1945

WISBECH JOINT ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

A total of 222 cases were treated in the Wisbech Joint Board's Isolation Hospital—the main admissions being from the following districts:—

Diphtheria—

	Admissions			Deaths		
Wisbech Borough	4	...	...	0
Marshland Rural District	4	..	...	0
Wisbech Rural District	2	...	...	0
March Urban District	7	...	...	0
North Witchford Rural District	2	...	...	0

Scarlet Fever—

Wisbech Borough	...	...	70	...	...	0
Marshland Rural District	...	...	29	...	...	0
Wisbech Rural District	...	...	34	...	...	0
Whittlesey Rural District	...	...	6	...	...	0
March Urban District	...	...	32	...	...	0
North Witchford Rural District	...	...	2	...	..	0
Thorney Rural District	...	...	2	...	...	0

Erysipelas—

Wisbech Borough	1	0
-----------------	-----	-----	---	-----	-----	---

Meningitis—

Wisbech Borough	...	...	2	...	...	1
Marshland Rural District	...	...	1	...	...	0

Measles—

Wisbech Borough	...	...	1	...	...	0
Marshland Rural District	...	...	1	...	...	0
Whittlesey Rural District	...	...	1	...	...	0

Notifiable Diseases during the Year--

				Total Cases notified.	Deaths.	
Small Pox	...	...	...	0	...	0
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	70	...	0
Diphtheria	...	...	..	4	...	2
Pneumonia	...	...	...	15	...	9
Erysipelas	...	...	...	3	...	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	..	2	..	0
Enteric Fever	...	...	...	0	...	0
Measles	...	...	...	68	...	0

NOTIFICATIONS OF TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Periods.		New Cases.				Deaths.			
		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1	...	0	0	...	0	0	...	0	0
5	...	0	0	...	1	2	...	0	0
15	...	1	2	...	0	0	...	0	0
25	...	2	1	...	0	1	...	0	0
35	...	2	1	...	0	0	...	0	0
45	...	0	0	...	0	0	...	0	0
55	...	0	0	...	0	0	...	0	0
65 & over	...	0	0	...	0	0	...	0	0
		—	—		—	—		—	—
		5	4		1	3		0	0
		==	==		==	==		==	==

I remain, Gentlemen,

Very faithfully yours,

H. LESLIE GROOM, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,

Medical Officer of Health.

Sanitary Inspector's Report for the Year 1943.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
EXCHANGE SQUARE,
WISBECH.

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Burgesses of the Borough of Wisbech.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present to you my report for the year 1943, being my twenty-fourth Annual Report.

This report is presented in summary form for the purposes of briefness and economy. These summaries, however, will show that regular attention has been given to the many matters coming within the purview of your Public Health Department.

Repairs to properties have been slowed down owing to the restriction on building materials, yet it has been possible to get a considerable amount of drainage and sanitary work executed in addition to ordinary repairs to houses. This work, however, has been mainly of an emergency nature.

The investigations after outbreak of infectious disease and the supervision of Food Supplies have in no way been relaxed. Immediate inspection is made after the notification of infectious disease and precautionary measures have been taken. The number of cases notified during the year has been considerably under the average. 100% inspections are carried out of all animals slaughtered at the Central Slaughter-houses in Bartletts Yard, necessitating daily visits for this purpose, and a great amount of food has been dealt with at the various shops and warehouses in the Borough.

On the whole, the health of the Borough has been good and much progress has been made.

SUMMARIES.

INSPECTION OF PREMISES.

Inspections under the Public Health Acts	...	...	349
" " Housing Acts	...	...	105
" after Infectious diseases	...	...	106
" of Factories...	...	...	24
" " Workshops and Bakehouses	...	...	46
" " Shops	...	...	61
" " Dairies and Cowsheds...	...	...	46
" " Slaughter-houses	...	...	364
" " Common Lodging Houses	...	...	28
" " Works in progress	...	...	292
Complaints investigated	...	...	252

WORK CARRIED OUT BY PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Premises disinfected after infectious diseases	...	...	101
Premises treated for vermin...	...	...	30
Smoke and water tests applied to drains	...	...	44

WORK CARRIED OUT IN COMPLIANCE WITH NOTICES AND UNDER SUPERVISION.

DRAINAGE.

New pipe drains provided	...	...	34
Drains repaired, cleansed, etc.	...	...	18
New ventilation pipes provided	...	...	4
Inspection chambers built on drains	...	...	25
Cesspools emptied	...	...	4
New Cesspools built	...	...	10

SANITARY CONVENIENCES.

Privies converted to water-closets	...	...	1
New water-closets provided	...	...	4
Closets repaired, cleansed, etc.	...	...	25
Flushing cisterns provided to W.C.'s.	...	...	4
New pail closets provided	...	...	1

FACTORIES.

Factories provided with improved Sanitary accommodation	1
---	---

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

Limewashed and cleansed	4
-------------------------	-----	-----	---

MISCELLANEOUS.

Houses limewashed	...	...	1
Houses demolished	...	...	5
Houses repaired	...	...	42
Houses provided with sufficient water supply	...	...	1
Houses provided with new sinks	...	...	3
Yards, sculleries, W.C.'s, etc., repaved	...	...	17
Accumulations of refuse removed	...	...	2
Rat nuisances abated	...	...	2

FOOD.

Carcases of animals inspected after slaughtering :—

Beasts	...	...	1814
Sheep	...	...	1424
Pigs	...	...	1722
Calves	...	...	90

Total ... 5050

ARTICLES CONDEMNED.

Fresh Meat.

Whole carcases of Beef	...	...	33
" " " Pork	...	...	11
Part " " Beef	...	...	99
" " " Pork	...	...	18
" " " Mutton	...	...	6

ARTICLES CONDEMNED—continued.

Ox Heads and Tongues	...	...	...	64
„ Offal (complete)	...	...	...	39
„ Livers...	...	...	...	307
„ Lungs...	...	...	...	105
„ Tripes...	...	...	...	9
„ Hearts	...	...	...	6
„ Spleens	...	...	...	34
„ Kidneys and Fats	...	...	...	16
Pigs Plucks	...	...	...	17
„ Heads	...	...	...	9½
„ Livers	...	...	...	3
„ Lungs	...	...	...	12
„ Hearts	...	...	...	4
Sheeps Livers	...	...	...	16
„ Heads	...	...	...	3
„ Plucks	...	...	...	9

CAUSES FOR CONDEMNATIONS.

Tuberculosis	...	...	23,394½ lbs.
Congestion	...	...	2687½ „
Emaciation	...	...	1690 „
Bruised	...	...	1349 „
Pyæmia	...	...	1261½ „
Cirrhosis...	...	...	1256 „
Actinomycosis	...	...	1076 „
Inflammation	...	...	1047½ „
Erysipelas	...	...	539 „
T. Pericarditis	...	...	507 „
C. Angioma	...	...	401 „
Bone Taint	...	...	296 „
Degeneration	...	...	278½ „
Dropsey	...	...	230 „
Decomposition...	...	...	163 „
Parasitic	...	...	156½ „
Fibrosis	...	...	55 „
Ulcers	...	...	21 „
Abcesses	...	...	20 „
Septicæmia	...	...	12 „
Rheumatism	...	...	11 „
Pleurisy	...	...	7½ „
Rash	...	...	6 „
Urticaria...	...	...	5 „

Total 36,470½ lbs.

Or 16 tons 5 cwts. 2 qrs. 14½ lbs.

OTHER FOODS.

Margarine	33 lbs.
Sugar	14 „
Dried Apricots	25 „
Rice	100 „
Orange Pulp	440 „
Sweetmeats	14 „
Oats	2 „
Fish	20 „
Bacon	13 $\frac{1}{4}$ „
Cheese	48 $\frac{1}{4}$ „
Total	<u>709$\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.</u>

Or 6 cwts. 1 qr. 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.

Prepared Foods	16 Pckts.
Yorkshire Pudding Mixture ...	24 „
Pancake Mixture	14 „
Porridge Oats	31 „
Runner Beans	70 Bags.
Extract Cubes	222
Eggs	1012

TINNED FOODS.

Corned Beef	253 tins
Pork Luncheon Meat	57 „
Sausage Meat	27 „
Corned Pork	1 „
Corned Mutton	15 „
Chopped Ham	21 „
Tongue	11 „
Rabbit	4 „
Stewed Stake	1 „
Fish	94 „
Vegetable Stew	9 „
Beans	127 „
Peas	75 „
Carrots	6 „
Potatoes	21 „
Fish Cakes	1 „
Soup	26 „
Tomatoes	1 „
Milk	507 „
Fruit	158 „
Jam	6 „
Marmalade	3 „
Rice Pudding	13 „
Prepared Foods	30 „
Total	<u>1467 tins</u>

JARS OF FOOD.

Fish	...	...	...	...	...	1 jars
Meat Paste	..	...	...	...	...	1 „
Prepared Foods	...	...	...	...	...	13 „
Coffee	...	...	...	...	...	1 „
Mincemeat	...	...	...	...	...	1 „
Jam...	..	...	...	...	...	47 „
Marmalade	...	...	...	...	...	8 „
Lemon Curd	...	...	...	...	...	33 „
Total						<u>75 jars</u>

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

E. J. SUTCLIFFE, M.S.I.A.,

Sanitary Inspector.